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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 6661  
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 9053  
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 5175  
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 7265  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 0334  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2235  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2169  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 8285  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 8852  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF  
START OF IRAQ WAR AND TIBET

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Lead stories on Monday morning included the spreading violence in the Chinese provinces neighboring Tibet following the Chinese government's crackdown on Tibetan protesters on Sunday in Lhasa.

¶2. "Instability Growing Around the World" The liberal Mainichi editorialized (3/17): "It has been almost five years since the start of the Iraq war on March 20, ¶2003. The Saddam Hussein regime was toppled, and the former dictator was executed. Nearly 4,000 U.S. service members have died in Iraq, but stability has yet to be achieved there.... President Bush needs to exert maximum efforts during his remaining term to stabilize Iraq and promptly withdraw U.S. troops from the nation. The U.S. military's presence there is not making the world safe but is instead having an adverse effect. Acts of terrorism committed by anti-American Islamist groups have spread from Iraq to other countries. The world is far more unstable than it was when the Iraq war was launched."

¶3. "Decline of U.S. Power Worrying" The moderate Yomiuri editorialized (3/17): "Five years have passed since the start of the Iraq war. The continuing turmoil in that country presents the U.S. with a heavy burden.... It is worrying that the chaos in Iraq has cast a shadow over stability in the world by undermining America's leadership in the international community. The U.S. needs to help the Iraqi government stabilize the nation, and Washington needs to make diplomatic efforts to create stability across the

Middle East as a whole."

14. "China Should Not Close Door to Dialogue" The liberal Tokyo Shimbun's editorial argued (3/17): "A number of people have been left dead or injured during recent clashes between Chinese security forces and Tibetan monks and residents who were protesting Beijing's policy toward Tibet. China should refrain from using force in order to avoid further bloodshed. The Chinese government should not close the door to dialogue with the Dalai Lama."

SCHIEFFER